

# CFA NEWS



## CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER, 1980

# CFA Endorses Candidates

At a Capitol Hill press conference, the Consumer Federation of America announced its initial list of candidate endorsements in 31 key Congressional and Senatorial races. CFA endorsed 19 incumbents, eight challengers and four candidates for open seats at the late August press conference, attended by nine members of Congress and one chal-

lenger. CFA will endorse a second group of candidates in early October, following the final primary elections.

In announcing the endorsements, Executive Director Stephen J. Brobeck praised the candidates' courageous defense of the consumer interest. He pledged CFA's intent "to inform voters about the pro-consumer record of these candidates in sharp contrast to their opponents. In doing so we hope to partially offset the massive spending campaigns by corporate PACs to influence both the candidates and the voters."

Unlike corporate PACs, CFA does not make any financial contribution to the candidates. Instead, CFA will attempt to hold members of Congress accountable at election time for their record and rhetoric, by informing voters of the candidates' consumer stands. Endorsements are based on the candidates' responses to a CFA questionnaire and, in the case of incumbents, on their Congressional voting record. Other factors include the opponent's record and an evaluation of the candidate by local CFA affiliated groups.



CFA Executive Director Stephen Brobeck addresses press conference as Congressmen look on.  
Photos by Nancy Rosenbaum.



Legislative Director Michael Podhorzer answers questions.

Each of the candidates appearing at the press conference stressed the importance of CFA's political endorsements. "There are a lot of PACs with a lot of money to get their message across," said Rep. Herb Harris (D-VA). "We need to get our message out with the help of groups like CFA."

"Money has a terribly distorting influence on politics," observed Rep. Andrew Maguire (D-NJ). "If PAC contributions are allowed to increase as they have over the last few years the pro-special interest and anti-consumer attitude of Congress will continue to the disadvantage of millions of Americans."

The attitude of those being endorsed was optimistic however. Rep. Harris noted: "There are more consumers than oil companies; more bereaved than funeral directors." Consumers can make a difference at the polls. Said Rep. James Howard (D-NJ): "I'd much rather have this endorsement from CFA than all the money from the big PACs."

CFA's involvement in past elections has helped elect a number of Congressmen, among them Rep. Maguire and Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH) who were present at the press conference to receive the CFA endorsement again. Others in attendance included: Rep. Bruce Vento (D-

MI); Rep. Michael Barnes (D-MD); Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA); Rep. Robert Kastenmeier (D-WI); Rep. James Corman (D-CA), and challenger Steve Sovern running for a Congressional seat in Iowa's 2nd District.

CFA Legislative Director Michael Podhorzer stressed the critical importance of consumers becoming actively involved in the election process. "Since 1976 when we made our first candidate endorsements," Podhorzer said, "CFA has recognized that forceful and vigorous advocacy of the consumer viewpoint is not enough to guarantee adequate protection for consumers. To be successful, the consumer movement must ultimately be a political movement capable of tipping the electoral balance in favor of candidates who are most responsive to the requirements of economic and social justice."

CFA's efforts on behalf of the candidates will focus on voter education. "We will provide voters with information on the consumer platforms and the records of the candidates," "We will also publish the consumer voting record of the 96th Congress, and work with our local affiliates in support of candidates we have endorsed."

## Newswatch

### New Program Will Improve K Car's Quality Control

Consumers who are all too familiar with the numerous defects plaguing American-made automobiles will welcome news from Detroit of a new program to insure better quality control in Chrysler's K car. In an unprecedented joint union-management announcement this summer, UAW and Chrysler officials pledged cooperation in establishing a worker-participation program in the production process of the new K car to insure the successful debut of the fuel-efficient compact.

Chrysler management, which feels its very existence is dependent upon public acceptance of the new model, hopes to make it competitive with foreign imports and said it is "making special efforts to build high quality into the K car—through superior engineering, extraordinary pre-production planning and other measures." The UAW, well aware that thousands of jobs are at stake, said that they "also recognize the necessity for special efforts."

The basis of the effort will be worker participation on the shop floor. The union pledged to "go straight to the top of the corporation" to insure that worker input into the quality improvement program is considered seriously. Also, a joint four-member, union-management Quality Committee will be set up at each plant to monitor the program and appoint Quality Teams to resolve quality problems. The union and the corporation concluded, "We believe that if Chrysler workers are allowed to contribute their ideas and their know-how, they will show just as much pride of workmanship as anybody else."

### Network News Ignores Consumers, Workers

A "healthy skepticism" needs to be nurtured among TV viewers to counteract the widespread pro-corporate bias in network news. In a recent report sponsored by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, it was found that five issues of major importance to workers and consumers re-

continued on page 2

## Candidates Endorsed

### SENATE

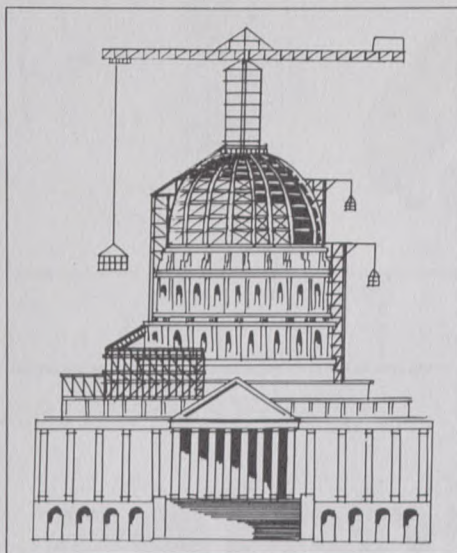
Iowa: Sen. John Culver  
South Dakota: Sen. George McGovern

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

California: Rep. Pete Stark (9)  
Rep. James Corman (21)  
Rep. Augustus Hawkins (29)  
Colorado: Rep. Ray Kogovsek (3)  
Delaware: Robert Maxwell (AL)  
Indiana: John Walda (4)  
Iowa: Steve Sovern (2)  
Kentucky: Tom Easterly (6)  
Maryland: Rep. Michael Barnes (8)  
Massachusetts: Rep. James Shannon (5)  
Michigan: Kathleen F. O'Reilly (2)  
Rep. Howard Wolpe (3)

Minnesota: Rep. Bruce Vento (4)  
Archie Baumann (6)  
Gene Wenstrom (7)  
New Jersey: Rep. James Howard (3)  
Rep. Andrew Maguire (7)  
New York: Rep. Jerome Ambro (3)  
Mark Green (18)  
Ohio: Rep. Tony Hall (3)  
Harry Meshel (19)  
Dennis Eckart (22)  
Oregon: Rep. Jim Weaver (4)  
Pennsylvania: Rep. Pete Kostmayer (8)  
Jeanette Reibman (15)  
Texas: Rep. Bob Eckhardt (8)  
Virginia: Rep. Herb Harris (8)  
W. Virginia: Pat Hamilton (2)  
Wisconsin: Robert Kastenmeier (2)





This fall, CFA will be taking a critical message to districts across the country: "caveat cives"—citizens beware. For too long, the consumer movement, like the individual consumer has taken its lead from the Latin proverb, "caveat emptor"—"let the buyer beware." As individuals have approached the marketplace with a healthy skepticism, consumer groups have attempted to educate consumers and lobby for reforms designed to increase consumers' rights. But concern with the marketplace alone is only half of the solution to the problems consumers face today. With business and government increasingly working together to determine the shape of our markets and our lives, "caveat cives" must replace "caveat emptor": it is not only the buyer, but also the citizen who must beware.

The action and inaction of Congress directly affects all facets of our lives. In responding to the challenges of energy, inflation, recession, and worker and consumer health and safety, Congress can demonstrate its commitment to improving our social welfare and protecting the

## Washington Perspective:

# "Caveat Cives"

by Ruth Simon, Information Officer and Michael Podhorzer, Legislative Director

citizen's rights. Or, it may ignore these fundamental concerns and work to improve the position of the most powerful segments of our society at the citizen's expense.

This Congress and the last have increasingly come under the influence of narrow special interests and corporate political action committees. As a result, the interests of the citizen-consumer have too often been sacrificed for more politically expedient concerns. In the 94th Congress, the Fortune 500, the Business Roundtable and the Chamber of Commerce defeated legislation to create an Agency for Consumer Protection. Last year, Big Business' powerful offensive on consumers led to the decontrol of oil, the defeat of hospital cost containment, and a brutal all-out assault on the Federal Trade Commission that challenged the most fundamental principles of consumer protection. At the same time, Congress also defeated legislation to authorize public financing of Congressional elections and to limit corporate political action committee contributions.

### The Challenge of the PACs

Recognizing that shaping the character of Congress shapes its agenda, groups like the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), the Business Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC), and the Conservative Victory Fund (CVF), have grown in number and in size. These groups are pumping millions of dollars into political campaigns in order to influence not only specific pieces of legislation but also,

more importantly, who votes in Congress and how. Their strategy, which moves the politics of business from the marketplace into the political arena, is one that consumer groups and individual consumers can not ignore.

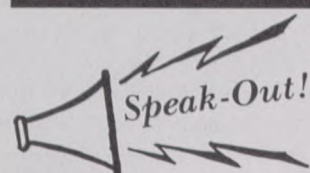
Instead of waiting until after election day to educate and advocate, the consumer movement must answer the challenge of NCPAC, BIPAC, CVF, and the Chamber of Commerce. Both national and grass roots consumer groups must stand behind consumer-oriented candidates and oppose those candidates who have consistently ignored the consumer's interests. Consumer groups, working alone and in coalitions, must integrate themselves into the political process. By actively endorsing and opposing candidates and running their own pro-consumer candidates for office, by holding fundraisers, rallies and consumer voter registration drives, and by publicizing candidates' consumer platforms with consumer voting records, candidate surveys and profiles of candidates in key races, consumer groups can bring the fundamental issues of consumerism into the voting booth.

### Consumerism in Voting Booth

Forceful and vigorous advocacy of the consumer position is not enough to guarantee adequate protection for consumers. To be truly successful, the consumer movement must be a political movement capable of tipping the electoral balance in favor of candidates most responsive to the requirements of social and economic justice. Voting is a key

part of the solution to inflation and economic stagnation. It is imperative that consumers understand the power of Congress to shape their lives and expand their vigilance from the shelves of the marketplace to the halls of Congress.

Unless consumers are willing to recognize the connection between oil decontrol and persistent double digit inflation, between the failure to pass National Health Insurance, or even hospital cost containment and the bankruptcy that follows serious illness, between weakening the FTC and being defenseless in the marketplace, between tolerating phony regulatory reforms and future thalidomides and Love Canals, Congress will continue to be part of the engine driving our economic and social problems. Consumers and consumer groups must hold their Congressmen accountable for their records and rhetoric. Truly, it is the citizen who must beware.



## Sunset Legislation: Overkill?

by Howard Marlow, Associate Director, Legislative Dept., AFL-CIO

Legislation now moving through the Senate would systematically terminate nearly every federal program at least once every ten years. Under S. 2, each program is assigned a termination date, and unless Congress passes new authorizing legislation by that date, the program dies. Included within a list of about 1,000 programs that would be affected by the Sunset legislation are: Consumer Product Safety Act, Fair Packaging and Labeling Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps, Vocational Education Act, Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, National Labor Relations Act, Truth in Lending and Highway Safety Programs.

With more than 2,500 separate authorizations currently on the books, no one can deny that there are programs which are no longer needed and programs which have not worked effectively. The movement behind S. 2 is a reflection of the frustration of Members of Congress who recognize the need to take action to prune the targeted thicket. Unfortunately,

S. 2 is not an appropriate response to this need. In fact, it will only increase the level of frustration for both Members of Congress and the American people.

### Every Program Threatened

At a time when Congress has shown little willingness to approve anything controversial, S. 2 would require reenactment of almost every major social program established in the last half century. These programs deserve to be considered on their merits, but S. 2 provides no such opportunity. With Congress being required to make nearly 200 reauthorizations every two years, there will be no time for a careful evaluation of programs. Instead, reviews will be made on narrow political and budgetary bases. Programs which are controversial will be prime targets of single-issue interest groups. They will use the pressures of the ballot box to either terminate or cripple programs which took years to develop.

Most important of all, S. 2 will prevent committees from tending to current business. The net effect of a vastly increased Sunset workload will be to turn Congress-

sional attention away from examining current needs to a review of past actions. This impact on the Congressional process cannot be measured in dollars and cents, but it can be considered in terms of the disappointment and frustration which it will engender among the public whose needs may go unmet.

### No Proven Value

At least 34 states have instituted some form of sunset law. Over the past four years, the experience of these laws proves that the sunset process leaves much to be desired. In almost every state for which information is available, little if any savings resulted from the expenditure of tens of thousands of dollars on the sunset process. On the federal level, Sunset is projected to cost about \$50 million each year. It is doubtful, based on the experience of these states, that the savings will make the expenditure of these funds worthwhile.

Congress must improve its oversight of federal programs, but S. 2 is a process without substance. It is essential that Congress consider alternatives to S. 2, which permit committees to select those programs which are most in need of evaluation. This selectivity, absent in S. 2, will make it possible for the Sunset process to produce the results which the American people have a right to expect.

### Newswatch

continued from page 1

ceived inadequate coverage, and that when these issues were covered, the corporate positions were favored by margins ranging from three to one to seven to one.

I.A.M.A.W. President William Winpisinger said that 1500 union members in 43 states spent the month of February monitoring network news and found anti-consumers and anti-labor bias in all three networks.

The monitors found that less than one eighth of the broadcast stories dealt with the five high priority issues—inflation, energy, foreign trade, health and tax reform. Health and safety information, most frequently listed as the highest priority for workers, was found to be the least frequently discussed issue among the five.

Winpisinger said the survey would be used as evidence when the union challenges the broadcasting licenses of three network affiliates next year.

The results of the survey were announced at a briefing in Washington to which no film crews came. When asked if he thought the corporate bias in the news was intentional, Winpisinger replied, "The networks are corporations, and that speaks for itself."



# Legislative Wrap-Up

## Editor's Note:

The 96th Congress is scheduled to adjourn in early October. Indications now are, however, the leadership will call a special "lameduck" session following the November elections to complete unfinished legislative business. CFA is planning publication of a new biweekly legislative report to replace the legislative wrap-up now appearing in **CFA News**. If Congress reconvenes in November, the legislative report will appear at that time.

## Regulatory Reform

Two controversial amendments, both strongly opposed by CFA, have tied up the Regulatory Reform bill (HR 3263) in a House Judiciary Subcommittee. Debate over the Bumpers' Amendment and a two-house legislative veto has stalled action on the bill and probably killed its chances for passage in the 96th Congress. CFA opposes the Bumpers' Amendment which would reverse the historic legal standards for determining burden of proof when federal regulations are challenged and would give excessive power to lifetime Federal judges to substitute their judgments for those of the regulatory agencies. CFA has also opposed all Congressional veto legislation because it reduces accountability and violates the constitutional principle of checks and balances.

## Food Labelling

A food labelling bill is in the final draft stage in the Senate Health Subcommittee, and chances look good for passage if the bill (S-1652) reaches the floor this session. Committee Chairman Ted Kennedy (D-MA) will only let a bill emerge from his committee if all sides agree on it and there is broad Congressional support. Consumer groups are generally pleased with the early drafts and industry also has an interest in seeing the bill reported out since it calls for preempting of individual states' labelling laws by the Federal government.

The king-pin maker seems to be the Food and Drug Administration which must iron out certain aspects of the bill with two industry representatives. The dispute involves modified criminal liability and Federal subpoena power.

The major portion of the bill represents a compromise between consumer and industry groups establishing discretionary rather than mandatory nutrient labelling, based on currently non-existent nutrient labelling banks. Consumer groups are fighting, however, to give FDA authority to mandate the labelling within a set period of time, even if data banks haven't been established.

## Railroad Deregulation

Derailed railroad deregulation legislation is back on track after President Carter gave his support to a new compromise prepared by House sponsors of the bill. The proposed legislation provides for a four-year gradual phasing out of ICC jurisdiction over rail rates, though the compromise amendment recently added stipulates that the ICC would have jurisdiction if a rate exceeds a specified cost-recovery formula.

Consumer Federation of America supports an amendment to the legislation by Rep. Bob Eckhardt (D-TX) which protects "captive coal-shippers", shippers of coal who only have one line on which to ship.

## Airbags

The deflated airbag issue was given a new breath of life last month, as House and Senate conferees on the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration authorization bill (S. 1159) rejected the crippling Stockman Amendment. In a surprise development that bodes well for consumers, Senator John Warner (R-VA) became the unlikely hero who rescued the nearly moribund N.H.T.S.A. passive restraint standard. The conferees agreed

to require manufacturers to offer airbags in at least one line during three of the four model years between 1982 and 1985.

The conferees also decided to require major auto manufacturers to offer some sort of passive restraint in small cars in 1983 and then in all cars in 1984. The original standard would have taken effect in 1982 for large cars, expanding in 1983 to medium-sized cars and then in 1984 to small cars.

The 1977 standard has run a rough course, and was nearly killed last December with the passage of Rep. David Stockman's (R-MI) ill-named "freedom of choice" amendment, which would have rendered the N.H.T.S.A. rule merely a manual belt standard.

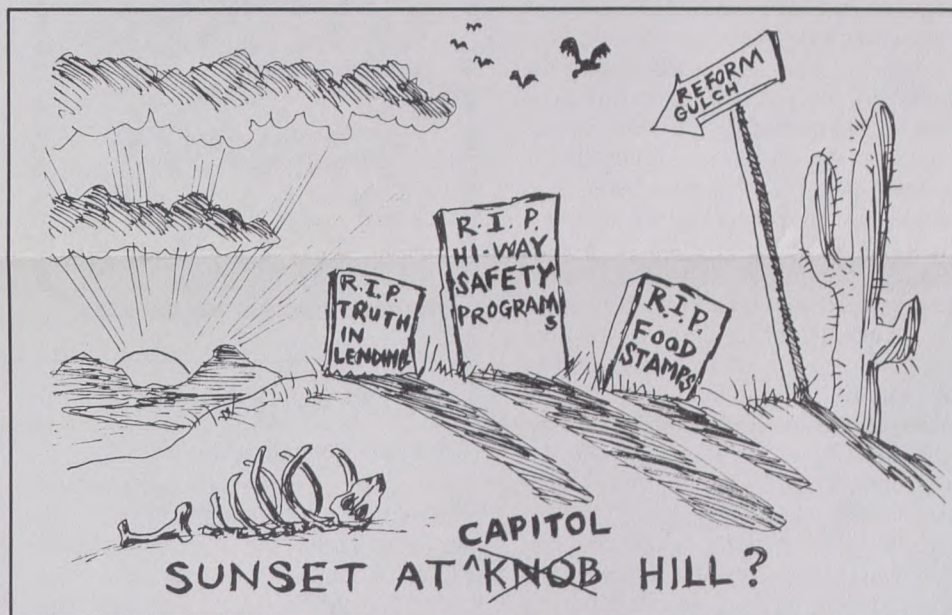
Senator Warner, rarely a consumer ally, defended the standard, noting the airbag's proven effectiveness, and calling annual highway fatality figures "astounding."

"With the country moving to more small cars... it is now or never for the airbag," Warner said. However, once the bill is reported out of conference, it must still pass the House and the Senate.

## Sunset

Health and safety regulations aimed at protecting consumers and workers lie under the shadow of a serious threat as the "sunset" bill (S. 2) will reach the Senate floor early this month. When the bill was reported out of the Governmental Affairs committee, a rule was attached to it stipulating that the bill must be reported out of the Rules and Administration Committee, where it has been marked up, by September 4. Since the bill cannot be buried in committee and prospects for an alternative (and less anti-consumer) version are bleak, the odds are heavy for it to get to a vote, and to be passed.

CFA strongly opposes this legislation, which automatically terminates federal programs unless Congress specifically extends their authority, as it would be most frequently targeted toward health and safety regulatory agencies. CFA believes federal agencies should be eliminated in the same manner in which they are created—by a deliberate Congressional process and a vote to abolish, not by simple inaction. (See accompanying "Speak-Out" column on page 2.)



## Multinationals Seek Legislation To Cut Their State Taxes

While seven of the nation's largest oil companies already pay less in state tax than an average taxpayer earning \$16,000 per year,\* legislation currently before Congress could cut their tax bills even further.

Hearings have already been held in both houses on bills which would make it virtually impossible for states to tax the dividends multinational corporations receive from their foreign subsidiaries.

The bills—S. 1688, sponsored by Sen. Charles Mathias (R-MD) and HR 5076, sponsored by Rep. Barber Conable (R-NY) and Rep. James Jones (D-OK)—were introduced following a decision by the Vermont State Supreme Court (Mobil Oil vs. State of Vermont) which held Mobil responsible for taxes on its entire income from sales apportioned to Vermont including dividends from its foreign subsidiaries.

Mobil claimed that it should pay \$1871.90 rather than \$76,000 on sales of \$27 million between 1970 and 1972. The remainder, it said, constituted taxation of foreign income. The court disagreed. It held Mobil responsible for the larger amount.

Mobil is appealing the court decision, but in the meantime, the oil companies and other multinationals are tapping their political resources, pushing legislation on Capitol Hill which would dramatically cut their state tax bills. Under the proposed legislation, Mobil would in fact owe less than \$2000 in state taxes over a three year period.

"The question," says CFA Legislative Director Michael Podhorzer, "is whether in this age of a balanced budget and fiscal austerity, the tax burden should be placed on the average consumer or on oil companies and other multinationals

earning larger profits each year."

The bills would also make it more difficult for states to differentiate between the taxable U.S. income of multinationals and their foreign earnings, which could not be taxed. Currently, states use the unitary method, a relatively simple method, to apportion taxes. Under the proposed laws, states would be required to work through the books of multinationals on a transaction by transaction basis, treating these organizations as if they were loose federations of independent businesses rather than centrally managed firms.

The prime beneficiaries of this legislation would be the large oil companies and other large multinationals. Not only would their tax bills be reduced, but they would also be provided with further incentives to invest abroad. The losers—states who would lose tax revenues at the same time that the bureaucracy and paperwork of the tax system grew and the average taxpayer, who paid a larger percentage of state taxes than Exxon or Mobil last year.

\*According to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, in 1977 the average state/local tax rate for individuals earning \$16,000 was 1.8%. The rate for individuals earning \$32,000 was 2.9%. In 1978, the state/local tax rate for oil companies was as follows: Continental, .3%; Standard Indiana, .6%; Exxon, .7%; Mobil and Texaco, 1.5%; Phillips and Shell, 1.6%.

## CFA Challenges Congressional Veto

In a challenge to the controversial Congressional Veto, CFA petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) last June for a rehearing of its incremental price regulations. CFA contended that the legislative veto provision in the incremental pricing law is unconstitutional because it violates the principle of separation of powers and deprives the President of his own veto power. Furthermore, the regulations were vetoed by only one House of Congress, which violates the constitutional principle of bicameralism. CFA has actively opposed the Veto principle because there are no standards for exercising it and no provision for judicial review of it.



## Bleak Savings Picture

"Save, save, save," the government admonishes spend-thrift consumers. In statements from federal agencies and officials, the government emphasizes the importance of savings to curb inflation by reducing consumer spending and increasing the resources for capital formation and investment. But for the small saver looking for a place to invest his modest nest egg, the picture is bleak—largely because the net impact of many government policies in the past decade has worked against him.

Small savers are all too aware that the current government-imposed ceiling on passbook savings accounts of 5¼% to 5½%, is hardly a hedge against an inflation rate which at one point this year soared to a 20% annual rate and averaged 15% over the first six months of 1980. The government's own heavily promoted Series E saving bonds are not much more of a savings incentive at 6% annual interest.

And when the IRS tax on this interest is deducted, consumers rightly are left feeling cheated and angry. At the same time, the consumer who amasses credit balances or loans and pays off his debt in inflated dollars is rewarded with tax credits on the interest payments. The system, constructed by the same people who admonish us to save, ironically encourages the growth of debt rather than savings. A penny saved is no longer a penny earned.

Early this spring, small savers were further penalized when the Federal Reserve Board imposed emergency credit controls (just recently lifted) which tried to limit access to mutual money market funds—one of the few real inflation havens available to small savers. At the same time, FRB Chairman Volcker approved a \$1 billion loan from private banks to the Hunt brothers, whose questionable speculation on the commodities market actually further fueled inflation by driving up the price of silver.

In the case of low-interest U.S. savings bonds, the Treasury Department recently agreed to modify its ads for the bonds, emphasizing that they should be aids to regular savings. Government officials rejected, however, a suggestion that the ads disclose the adverse effect of inflation. The elderly are the most susceptible to the government's bond campaigns, and an inflation disclosure statement was proposed by a Gray Panther group objecting to the Treasury ads stressing the bonds earning power.

Deceptive advertising? Not according to the Federal Trade Commission. A top FTC official argued that public knowledge of the economy is sufficient enough, and individuals' interests diverse enough, to make an inflation disclosure in ads for saving investments undesirable.



## Upcoming Events

### Consumer Education Week

Recognizing the incalculable benefit of consumer education, President Carter has declared that the week of October 5 will be National Consumer Education Week. The White House has called on schools, governments, consumer organizations, labor unions, and businesses to

## Consumer Group Can't Testify

In an ironic turnabout, key consumer witnesses were prevented from testifying this month before the Senate Consumer Subcommittee. When the Subcommittee held oversight hearing on the Federal Trade Commission's mobile home warranty rule, the Center for Auto Safety's Mobile Home Task Force was refused permission to appear—despite the fact that the consumer group has been involved with the proposed rule since 1975 and was designated by the FTC as chief consumer representative for the Commission's 1977 rulemaking hearings.

Subcommittee Chairman Sen. Wendell Ford (D-KY) agreed to hold the hearings to decide whether the FTC should have authority over the rule, in exchange for Sen. Birch Bayh's (D-IN) promise to drop an amendment killing the rule. Although not a member of the Subcommittee, Bayh was invited to testify and question witnesses. He left the hearing after industry witnesses had spoken but before the consumer witnesses presented their testimony.

Bayh, who is facing a tough re-election campaign in a state where many mobile home firms are home-based, argued that the Department of Housing and Urban Development and not the FTC should have authority over the rule. Barbara Bezdek, of the Center for Auto Safety, attacked the proposed shift as a "ludicrous idea," and a waste of taxpayer's money since the FTC has been working on the rule for eight years.

Bezdek also strongly criticized the exclusion of the Center from the hearing. Subcommittee staff counsel Loretta Dunn said the witnesses were chosen for

"balance," but Bezdek responded: "How can you call it a balanced hearing when there are four manufacturers there, two consumer representatives, and the main consumer advocate on the issue is not even invited?"

The witnesses included four industry groups, a "neutral" witness—a national mobile home dealers' organization that not surprisingly followed the industry line—two consumer witnesses and representatives from the FTC and HUD. In addition, Bayh spoke out against the rule and Rep. John Brademas (D-IN) whose views coincide with Bayh's, was invited but did not attend.

Dunn argued that the government witnesses were pro-consumer, but FTC witness Albert Kramer, Director of the Consumer Protection Bureau, noted in his testimony that it is difficult to understand how federal agencies like HUD and FTC can be called "consumer witnesses" in the same way that corporations and a trade association are called "industry witnesses." For his part, HUD Undersecretary Victor Marrero merely testified that HUD would handle the rule if necessary, but that it would require an expansion of departmental powers and resources to do so.

The FTC had recommended that CAS appear at the oversight hearings as a consumer witness, and requests in support of the Center's appearance were also made by the Office of Consumer Affairs on behalf of the White House, and the Kentucky Attorney General's Office, which was also refused permission to testify at the hearings.

examine closely how they, individually and collectively, can initiate and support consumer education. State and local consumer groups can use this opportunity to stimulate interest in consumer issues and inform consumers about their own programs.

### LBJ, Gov. Harriman to be Honored

President Lyndon B. Johnson and Gov-

ernor W. Averell Harriman will be honored this month for their outstanding contributions to promoting consumer representation in government decision-making. Harriman and Lady Bird Johnson will receive the National Consumer League's Trumpeter Award September 23 at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, at N.C.L.'s annual fundraising reception. For information call (202) 797-7600.



Consumer Federation of America 1012 - 14th Street NW, Washington DC 20005

President ..... Sharon Stark  
Executive Director ..... Stephen J. Brobeck  
Legislative Director ..... Michael Podhorzer  
Information Officer ..... Ruth Simon  
Assistant to the Director ..... Joanne Weistling  
Secretary ..... Lydia Rivera Grogan

CFA News is published 10 times a year  
1012 - 14th St, NW, Washington, DC 20005  
Annual subscription rate: \$25 per year

Editor ..... Anne C. Averyt  
Editorial Assistant ..... Brian Harding